

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Where Is Your ‘Garden of Humanity’?

This is to respond to Joe Kostecke’s letter (Aug. 22 “Mailbox”) on the article “Stop! In the Name of Peace” (July 18 *World Tribune*) by Leslie Wines regarding the “safe little world to hide in” or “garden of humanity.” I agreed with Mr. Kostecke that the realm of Buddhism is a “garden of humanity.” It is the ideal that every one of us strives for. However, the article refers to the fact that the “kosen-rufu movement exists to rid the world of its misery.” It is true that in the past a lot of us used Buddhist activities to hide our misery. Many of us got our awakening when SGI President Ikeda came in 1990 and liberated us! Even though we, leaders and members alike, knew the concept of “Middle of the Road,” there were not many who practiced it. I can name more than a few leaders from my young women’s division days.

What I do not agree with Mr. Kostecke about is that no matter what the circumstance(s), the bottom line is up to us. We can view our Gakkai activities as our “garden of humanity” or we can view EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES as our “safe little world to hide in.” It makes no difference where we are and what we do. Our sincere desire and hope will penetrate the walls of difference we (as Buddhists) need to face in the next millennium.

— KAREN ROACH, San Pedro, Calif.

An Artsfest Reflection

Myself, along with the rest of the SGI Boston members, friends and family, recently completed Artsfest ’97. It was a weekend overflowing with art, creativity, love and caring. Our humble Boston Community Center was transformed into an art gallery, children and adult crafts center, sound stage, movie theater, puppet theater, coffeehouse and dance hall.

Observing what was going on around me, I realized that this is the way human beings are supposed to feel: happy, creative, free, reflective and filled with laughter and love. It reaffirmed my feeling that every day as a human being we should in some way connect to art and artists. Therefore, I want to propose that we celebrate art almost every day of the year, leaving one weekend free to have a ThreePoisonsfest, a celebration of greed, anger and stupidity, just to remind us of the way we used to feel before we made the Artsfest spirit part of our everyday lives.

— LARRY TISH, Boston

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